

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 119
By Burks

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Dr. Bill Francis of
Cookeville.

WHEREAS, it was with great sadness and a profound sense of loss that the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of our state learned of the death of Dr. William C. "Bill" Francis; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was a distinguished physician who was very dedicated to his family, his medical profession, and the Cookeville community; and

WHEREAS, William Clark Francis was born in LaFollette, Tennessee on July 11, 1929 to Paul and Sally Francis; and

WHEREAS, he earned his undergraduate degree from Tennessee Technological University, where he began to show leadership skills as student body president, captain of the track and football teams, and a member of the Omicron Delta Kappa Society; and

WHEREAS, he then served his country with distinction and honor in the Korean War as a paratrooper with the One Hundred and First Airborne out of Fort Campbell; he later attained the rank of captain; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis followed his distinguished military service by entering the University of Tennessee, Memphis, where he earned his Doctorate in Medicine in 1961; and

WHEREAS, for many years, in addition to his private medical practice, he was Tennessee Technological University's athletic team physician, offering his talents and training to the school he dearly loved; and

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WHEREAS, Dr. Francis' dedication to his alma mater resulted in his receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award in 1978 and his induction into the TTU Sports Hall of Fame in 1984; and

WHEREAS, he continued to receive honors from the University when, in 1992, it held "Dr. William C. Francis Day" and named the Athletic Training Room in his honor; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bill Francis was a man who was respected in the medical community and loved by his patients; and

WHEREAS, he served in many capacities related to his profession, including chief of staff and chairman of the Board of Trustees at Cookeville General Hospital, president of the Putnam County and the Upper Cumberland Medical Societies, and member of the American Academy of Family Practice; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis most deservedly received several honors during his career, including the coveted Fred H. Roberson Award for outstanding service to Cookeville General Hospital; and

WHEREAS, his record of civic responsibility was unparalleled; he served in various service organizations and was honored in 1978 by the Jaycees as "Humanitarian of the Year;" and

WHEREAS, Dr. Francis was an active and devout member of the Jefferson Avenue Church of Christ; and

WHEREAS, in light of the many accomplishments, honors and awards he received during his lifetime, it was the love he shared with his wife, Donna D. Francis, their sons, William Clark Francis, Jr., James Scott Francis, Sr., and Douglas Lee Francis, and their grandchildren, Haley, Ashley, James, Kevin, Timmy, William, Leanne and Emily that he treasured most; and

WHEREAS, the legacy Dr. Bill Francis leaves behind will be long remembered and treasured by friends and associates for many years to come; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we honor the memory of Dr. William C. "Bill" Francis, a distinguished physician, veteran, and community leader.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we express our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Dr. Bill Francis, and hope that the legacy of this great man continues to inspire and comfort all who knew him.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to the family of Dr. Bill Francis with this final clause omitted from such copy.